DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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EIGHTH BIRTHDAY

Democratic Germany's Successful Year

As the people of the German Democratic Republic got ready to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the foundation of their state on October 7th, they could look back with satisfaction to another successful year of endeavour.

Here are a few of the steps forward during the past year, worthy of note on the eighth birthday of the Democratic Republic:

1956

October 7th: The national income of the Republic has more than doubled since the foundation of the Republic in 1949, it was officially announced.

November 6th: Old-age and disability pensions were raised by thirty marks monthly, an average increase of about 30%.

1957

January 1st: Engineering factories began to switch over from 48-hour week to 45-hour week, without any reduction in pay. During the spring and summer the same big cut in hours was introduced in most other branches of industry.

July 27th: Prime Minister Grotewohl announced an easy-to-work plan to bring the two halves of Germany nearer together. Main points of the plan were: Ban on atom weapons throughout Germany; East and West Germany should quit Warsaw Pact and NATO respectively, and foreign powers should be requested to remove all troops from Germany; East and West Germany should join in loose confederation, pending further steps towards unity.

August 17th: Another big rise in industrial production was announced. Total production was eight percent higher in the first six months of 1957 than in the same period of the preceding year, despite the fact that hours of work for most industrial workers had been cut from 48 to 45.

September 9th: The Leipzig Fair did double the business expected, concluding export contracts for goods valued at 800 million marks.

"Oder-Neisse Frontier Final" — Marshall Tito

Yugoslavia has been the first country outside the Warsaw Treaty block to recognise as final the Oder—Neisse frontier between Germany and Poland.

Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito announced the official recognition of this frontier, the validity of which is denied by the West German Government, on September 16th.

The announcement was made in the communique announcing the successful conclusion of talks between the Yugoslav Government and Communist League, and the Polish Government and United Workers' Party.

The communique stated in part: "Taking account of the rights of the Polish people, the Yugoslav Government considers the existing frontier on the Oder and Neisse, which was fixed by the Potsdam Decisions and recognised by the German Democratic Republic, as the final Polish—German frontier.

"The recognition of the western frontiers of Poland by the states which have not done so until now would contribute to the stabilisation of relations in Europe as well as to the consolidation of peace in that part of the world."

On the subject of German reunification, the joint Yugoslav—Polish communique stated:

"The two governments came to the conclusion that German reunification into a peaceful and democratic state would be a great contribution to the stabilisation of world peace. The two governments stress the importance of this question for the European countries, and for the neighbouring countries in particular.

"Any solution of the problem of German reunification must proceed from the fact that there are two German states. The two governments advocate that for the solution of the German issue it is primarily necessary to establish contacts and conduct direct talks between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic in order to find a satisfactory solution both for the German people and for European security. It would be desirable if the great powers would make a contribution in this direction".

West German official circles reacted to the official Yugoslav recognition of the Oder—Neisse frontier with a storm of abuse directed at Yugoslavia, and the West German ambassador in Belgrade was recalled to Bonn to report on this development.

(See "Berlin Notebook" on the back page of this issue for more information on the Oder-Neisse frontier.)

WEST GERMANY'S NAZI JUDGES

London "Daily Express" Star Journalist Sefton Delmer Takes Good Look

Do you think it right to sentence a woman to death because she used stolen ration cards to buy food for herself and her family and passed on other stolen ration cards to her friends?

Travelling around Germany this last week watching and listening to the final adjurations for today's General Election, I have been putting this question to many Germans.

Only one of them upheld the savage sentence.

And that, fittingly enough, was Dr. Herbert Keyser himself, a judge of the special Hitler terror tribunal which at Leipzig on November 18,1943, sentenced 46-year-old Johanna Flock to be beheaded for just this crime.

There must be other Germans, though — more influential, perhaps, behind the scenes than the ones I questioned — who do approve.

One of them, presumably, is Dr. Konrad Adenauer himself. And millions of enthusiastic Germans are going to the polls here today to put him back in power for a third term as Chancellor.

For it is under the aegis of Dr. Adenauer as Chancellor that Dr. Keyser and at least 161 other judges and official prosecutors of Hitler's special wartime terror tribunals have been restored to key positions in the German judicial machine.

Between them, so it has been calculated on the basis of the official records, these 162 men were responsible for upholding Hitler's rule of terror with more than a thousand death sentences.

Among the crimes for which they sent men and women to have their heads chopped off — I get this from the register — are: listening to the enemy radio and spreading enemy lies, harbouring Jews, picking up a rug in a bombed and burning house, defeatist utterances, and anti-Nazi activities.

Under the Allied legislation, which was intended to create a new democratic Germany out of the ashes and rubble left by Hitler, these men were banned for life from holding judicial or State office.

But today you can be sure of running into them at the seat of justice in every major German town and city.

There's one of them in the Bonn Ministry of Justice and others in the Ministry of Justice of all the German Federal States.

Another one of them is a Federal judge at the Federal court in Karlsruhe, 17 are directors of justice in State courts, three are presidents of what the Germans call judicial senates.

Do these men repent the role they played as Hitler's judicial stooges? Not if the attitude of Dr. Keyser is any guide to the rest of them.

I called on Dr. Keyser in the office which he occupies in the big new law courts building here in Stuttgart, where he serves as a judge of civil appeals for the State of Baden-Wurtemberg.

I found him sitting at his desk — a mousy, insignificant-looking little man with a nibbly sort of moustache over his mouth, large, glinting goggles over his eyes under a bald but rather flat cranium.

Not really sinister-looking at all, but the sort of man, he seemed to me at any rate, who would always want to be on the right side of his superiors.

It seemed significant to me, therefore, that Dr. Keyser not only did not attempt to dispute the sentences he had been responsible for on the terror tribunals, but was ready to stand by them almost with an air of defiance.

"I do not regret a single one of the sentences for which I was responsible as a member of the special tribunal", said Dr. Keyser.

He glanced down at the photostat showing the official record of the case of Johanna Flock which I produced for him.

"I cannot recall this case offhand," he said a little doubtfully, and then with a sudden rush as though this settled everything for him, "Ah! she was a prostitute, I see."

He now got into his full stride.

"I must tell you: to receive and use stolen ration cards knowing them to be stolen and pass them on to friends or anyone else is a most serious crime in war. It is a shameless betrayal of the rest of the community, liable to bring into disorder the nation's carefully ordered supply system.

"Death was the only possible sentence for this woman. Besides," he added, "all these people had been warned what to expect."

Dr. Justice Keyser became expansive as he felt he had made a telling point.

"The day of the traitors and deserters who came to the top here immediately after the war is on the wane," he announced. (Rather an understatement, in my view, of a situation in which the Hitler terror judges are back on the Bench again.)

"I did not want war. But I tell you that as one of the majority of decent Germans I, like the others, did everything I could to win the war once it had started. It was my duty as a judge to show no false soft-heartedness."

Dr. Keyser told me how, after the Russians had entered Leipzig, he had lived underground without papers in the Soviet zone.

Not until 1953 did he manage to escape from the Soviet zone to the West. By May 1954, thanks to his friends in the judges' old boy network, he was soon comfortably installed in Stuttgart.

"Did they know your past as a member of the Special Courts here?" I asked him.

"Of course," he answered, "All my papers and personal files are deposited with the authorities here. I have nothing to hide."

I believed him. But to my mind it makes the restoration to judical dignity of this ex-terror judge all the more disquieting.

For in the German system of justice the judge has enormous personal power. He is not, as in Britain, the learned neutral president of the court balancing the scales between the accusing and defending parties, summing up the evidence to help a jury decide.

The majority of German courts have the Continental system, and under this the judge is both inquisitor, prosecutor, assessor of the truth, and final arbiter.

On the fairness and lack of prejudice of its judges depends the main bulwark of democracy in the new Germany, the equality of its citizens before the law.

Of all the departures from the Allied plans which Dr. Adenauer has sanctioned in the eight years he has been in power already, I think this restoration of the Hitler terror judges is the most sinister.

For there is the constant danger that these men who have been stooges once will be ready to be stooges again.

I do not look forward to Adenauer's third term with relish.

("Daily Express" London, September 16th.)

ADENAUER WINS AGAIN

COMMENT

Here is a West German comment on the elections from the Social Democratic paper "Fraenkische Tagespost" of September 16th 1957:

"The great political events which lie before us: the reunification policy of the Social Democratic Party, understanding with all peoples in East and West, have suffered a new defeat. This should be openly admitted. The primitive nature of the leading man in the Federal Republic has drawn electors to his side. The election results so far available leave no room for doubt about this. It is but cold comfort that the tendency towards a two-party system has taken a step forward. This is a fact which we were able to state once before — in 1933. The small parties were swamped. The nationalist forces and those who warned against a development which led Germany to disaster stood face to face.

"Are things very different today? Our warnings during the election campaign were ignored. The electors have weighted the scales on the side of the party which will turn against their interests. We can say this without claiming to be prophets.

"They have decided against an understanding with all peoples, although this understanding presents the only chance of avoiding mass madness and catastrophe.

"The electors have let themselves be persuaded by their obviously better living conditions today to overlook what may happen tomorrow, just as they let themselves be persuaded by their needs in the Hitlerite era. Future events will be tragic enough. We are becoming more and more dependent in foreign policy on states whose political attitude we cannot influence in any way, even if we call them our allies. Home policy can be directed along a course which will make the poor poorer and the rich richer. The election funds supplied by industry have done their job. From a military-political point of view we shall be steering a course which will lead us to the brink of disaster when the Christian Democratic Union again takes over the government.

"And judging by Adenauer's speeches up to now, the political level will sink to the level of the Hitlerite state — with all its consequences."

Reasons Analysed

West German Chancellor Adenauer, chief European exponent of power politics, anti-communism, and old-style German militarism, swept back into power again at the West German general elections on September 15th with a higher proportion of the votes than have ever before been given for a single party in German history.

Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union received just over 50% of the total poll; Adolf Hitler, in his most successful semi-free election in March 1933 received only 44% of the total poll.

Immediate reaction to the election was a wave of congratulation for Chancellor Adenauer from Franco Spain and Mr Dulles' State Department; warnings from Eastern European leaders that the forces of West German militarism had been strengthened; and a boom in the prices of heavy industrial shares on the West German stock market.

Adenauer's election victory brought the Christian Democratic Union an overall majority in the West German Parliament, but not the two-thirds majority which is necessary for constitutional amendments. Adenauer's Minister of the Interior Gerhard Schroeder, commented regretfully immediately after the election that this would make it impossible to push through "Emergency Laws" which he considered would have been useful. He did not define such "Emergency Laws" more closely, but students of German history recalled that such laws, permitting the Chancellor to govern without parliamentary assent, had marked the final downfall of German democracy in the immediate pre-Hitler period.

Main features of the election, apart from the overwhelming victory of the Christian Democratic Party, were the virtual extinction of a number of smaller parties, and the fact that the Social Democrats, despite their defeat, had been able to increase their vote.

Political observers believed that the extinction of the smaller parties, mainly extreme right-wing groupings, was due to the fact that unreconstructed nazis had decided that Adenauer's Christian Democrats were reactionary enough for them, and that this made a vote for openly nazi parties like the "German Reich Party" unnecessary.

The Socialist Democrats had drawn their increased vote mainly from the ranks of the banned Communist Party, which had urged supporters to give their votes to the Social Democrats, and from liberal middle-class intellectuals frightened by Adenauer's trend to authoritarianism.

Political observers in Berlin believed that there were four main explanations for Adenauer's sweeping victory. These were:

(cont. on next page)

ELECTION FIGURES

Party	1957 Votes	1957 Seats	1953 Votes	1953 Seats
CDU	14,998,754 (50.2 %)	270	12,443,981 (45.2 %)	243
SPD	9,490,726 (31.7 %)	169	7,944,943 (28.8 %)	151
FDP	2,304,846 (7.7 %)	41	2,629,163 (9.5 %)	48
DP	1,006,350 (3.3 %)	17	896,128 (3.3 %)	15
GB/BHE	1,373,001 (4.5 %)	—	1,616,953 (5.9 %)	27
KPD	(banned)		607,860 (2.2 %)	—

(Figures given above are the provisional results, and final figures may differ slightly. The distribution of seats is not likely to be altered. Abbreviations are: CDU, Christian Democratic Union; SPD, Social Democratic Party; FDP, Free Democratic Party; DP, German Party; GB/BHE, All-German Block, or "Refugee Party"; KPD, Communist Party of Germany, banned since 1956.)

(cont. from preceding page)

1. Adenauer's frank appeal to all the latent forces of nationalism, chauvinism and anti-communism in West Germany. In this he was unconsciously aided by the Social Democratic leadership which also made anti-communism one of the planks of its election programme, and thus drove wavering voters to give their ballot to the Christian Democrats which they regarded as the most effective anti-communist force.

2. The present economic boom and relative prosperity in West Germany. Adenauer exploited this by appealing to electors "not to change horses in mid-stream."

3. The lack of a clear alternative to Adenauer. The Social Democratic election programme was woolly and unclear, and in attempting to be all things to all men it had dropped any clear-cut blueprint for a socialist alternative which would have mobilised the electorate.

4. Adenauer's control of mass-media. The Christian Democratic Union received the support of the overwhelming majority of the newspapers in West Germany. Massive financial support from West German industry enabled the Christian Democrats to spend an estimated 100 million marks (over 9 million pounds) on the election campaign. Social Democratic propaganda cost only a tiny fraction of this sum.

You Ask—We Answer

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN W. GERMANY

"You have often written about the full equal rights for women in East Germany, equal pay for equal work and so on. What is the position in West Germany?"

B.H., Newcastle

Women have full equality in the German Democratic Republic, in all fields of life, and this includes, of course, equal pay for equal work. This principle has been applied since 1946, and today women and men workers in the Democratic Republic listen incredulously when visitors from western countries tell them of the wage and salary differentials still ruling there.

In West Germany the situation is vastly different. True, the West German Constitution specifically lays down equality of the sexes, but in practice there has been no government action to implement this clause of the Constitution in the field of equal pay, and what advances have been gained were won by some progressive trade unions in a long-drawnout and complicated legal battle.

To begin with, the constitutional clause on the equality of the sexes did not come into force until March 1953, nearly four years after the Constitution itself became valid, and in the meantime most trades had negotiated new tariff agreements on the old lines, providing for women's wages averaging only about three quarters of the wage paid to men for the same work.

After March 1953 it was open to women to take action in the labour courts against discrimination in wage rates, but this was a difficult and expensive task, and in many cases the courts threw out the claims on the grounds that the trade unions had already approved the discriminatory tariffs.

After lengthy negotiations lasting nearly the whole of 1954 the West German Textile Unions, in which women form a majority, managed to conclude an agreement with the textile employers which contained no definite deduction clauses, but here again the change remained mainly on paper: the words "women's work" in the old agreement were changed to "lighter work" in the new agreement, and most women workers in the industry continued to receive wages about one third lower than those paid to men in similar jobs.

Only after two years' struggle in and out of the courts did the unions succeed in getting the equal pay principle acknowledged by the Federal Labour Court, the highest instance in this case. On January 15th 1955 the Federal Labour Court handed down a decision stating that the articles of the Constitution providing sex equality "are genuine legal realities and not merely programmatic phrases ... The principle of equality also includes the principle of equal pay for equal work by men and women."

This decision made it plain that lower rates for women were illegal, but nothing of course was done by the anti-labour majority in the West German Parliament to pass any legislation on the subject. It has been left up to the trade unions to get it put into practice step by step through changes in the tariff agreements.

Today the employers are getting round their legal responsibilities by keeping women workers for an unjustifiably long period in low wage categories, and often jobs which are described as "typical women's work" are placed in separate categories. This last is regarded as the most dangerous practice, since it often results in work which is physically lighter but more exacting mentally being classified as "typical women's work", and paid at lower rates.

The situation has been complicated by the fact that conservative elements in the trade unions themselves, as in other countries, have often shown little inclination to press for equal pay for women.

Summing up, it can be stated that despite successes in various sectors, and despite the paper clauses, equal pay for equal work is still far from being a reality in West Germany today.

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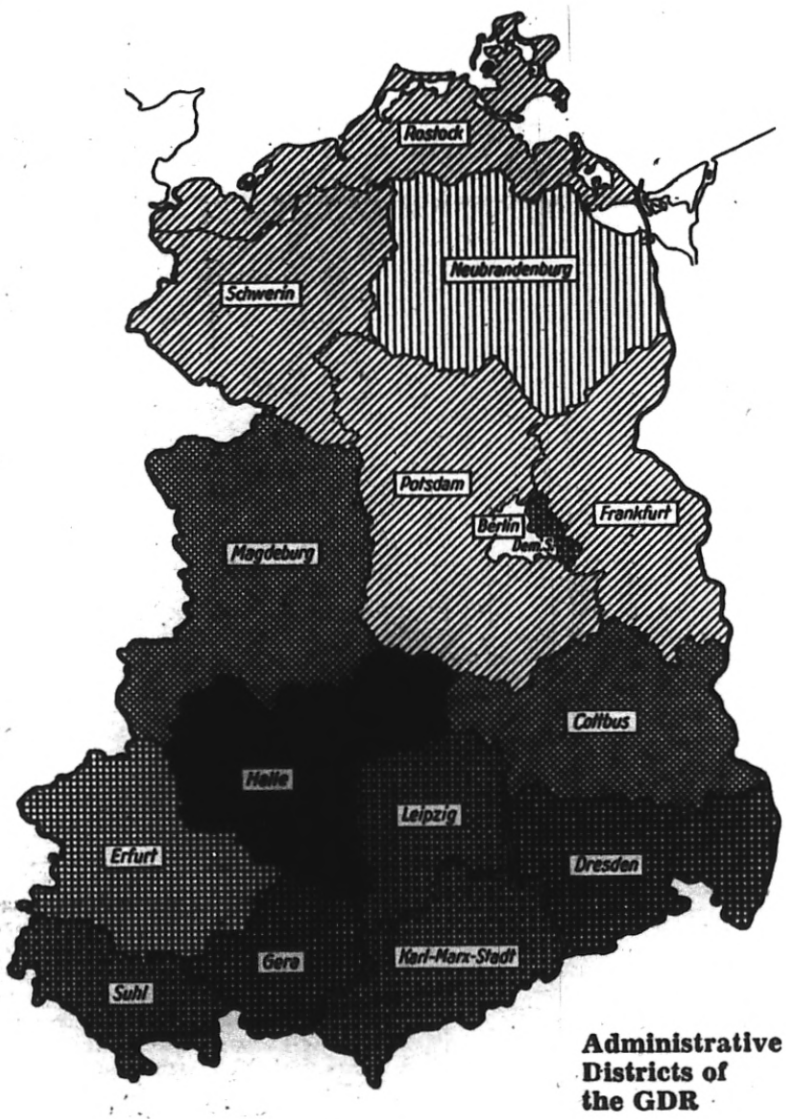
On Democratic Germany's Eighth Birthday

Here is a Ten-Minute Guide to the German Democratic Republic



Administrative Districts of the GDR

Industrial Gross Production per Head of Population

500 - 1000	1001 - 1500	1501 - 2000	2001 - 2500	2501 - 3000	3001 - 3500	3501 - 4000

Deutsche Mark (Unit of Account)

What is the German Democratic Republic?

At the end of the Second World War in 1945, Germany was divided into four occupation zones (British, French, American and Soviet), but all occupying powers promised in the Potsdam Declaration of 1945 that they would establish a central German administration for the whole country.

The western allies prevented this being done, and in September 1949, under western pressure, the three western occupation zones were combined to form the West German State, the German Federal Republic.

One month later on October 7th 1949, the "People's Congress", elected by the people of the Soviet Zone of occupation, proclaimed the establishment of the German Democratic Republic in eastern Germany, the former Soviet Zone.

The German Democratic Republic has an area of 41,390 square miles (about the same size as Tunisia or Bulgaria), and its population at the end of 1956 was 17,603,587 (about the same as Canada, and a little less than the population of Egypt.)

The German Democratic Republic is an important industrial country, and is the fifth in rank in industrial production amongst all European countries. The production of soft coal, or lignite, is particularly important: Democratic Germany produces over 200 million tons yearly, more than any other country in the world.

How is Democratic Germany Governed?

The supreme ruling body in the German Democratic Republic is the People's Chamber, or parliament, elected every four years by all men and women citizens over the age of eighteen. The present People's Chamber, elected in 1954, consists of 100 deputies from the Socialist Unity Party (formed in 1946 by the joining of the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party); 45 deputies each from the Liberal Democrats,

the Christian Democrats, the National Democrats, the Democratic Peasants, and the Free Trade Union Federation; 25 deputies each from the Free German Youth and the Democratic Women's Federation; and 10 deputies each from the League of Culture and the Peasants' League together with the Consumer Cooperatives. In addition there are 66 members who represent the Democratic Sector of Berlin, with consultative rights.

The People's Chamber, after its election, names the Prime Minister, who selects his cabinet, giving representation to the parties in accordance with their strength.

The Democratic Republic is divided into 14 counties (see map), each of which has its own elected parliament which has considerable powers with regard to local affairs.

How is Industry Run?

Soon after the war, the people of East Germany decided by referendum, by an overwhelming majority, that the property of former active nazis, war profiteers and war criminals should be expropriated and placed in the hands of the people. In the Province of Saxony, for instance, 2,683,401 people voted for expropriation, and 571,600 against. The lists of businesses to be expropriated were drawn up by local committees representing the political parties and trade unions, and the owners had the right to appeal.

Since almost all heavy industry was in the hands of war profiteers, etc, this expropriation measure meant that a very large part of the most important industries passed into the hands of the people, and became "Nationally-Owned Factories". In 1956, nationally-owned factories accounted for over 88% of the total industrial production in Democratic Germany. The production of these nationally-owned factories is rising from year to year: it increased 5.4% between 1955 and 1956. Directors of these factories are mainly former workers, and the workers in the factories, through their trade unions, production councils, and so on, have a full share in running them efficiently.

At the same time private industry, mainly in the form of small factories and craftsman's shops, is also prospering and increasing its production from year to year. Recently steps have been taken to help private industry by the investment of state capital for expansion.

How is Agriculture Run?

In 1945, at the end of the war, all estates of over 250 acres, and all the landed property of war criminals was expropriated and shared out amongst poor peasants, re-settlers, and agricultural workers. New farms were allotted to more than 200,000 families in these categories, and 350,000 peasants who had previously had very small farms got additional land. Some of the expropriated estates which were unsuitable for splitting up, such as stud farms, seed nurseries and so on, were converted into nationally-owned estates run on the same lines as the nationally-owned factories.

Machine and tractor stations, supplying tractors and other agricultural machinery, were established in all parts of the Republic, and they hire out their machines to the peasants at reasonable rates.

In 1952 peasants in various parts of the Republic began to get together and form agricultural production cooperatives, or collective farms. Joining these cooperatives is voluntary, and today there are 6281 such cooperatives with a total of 219,600 members. They farm just under one quarter of the total agricultural area of the Republic. Members of the cooperatives are free to resign if they wish, and they then receive back their land, or land of similar size and quality. Peasants are gradually joining the cooperatives as they see that they bring them an easier life and a better standard of living.

How do the Workers Live?

Maximum hours of work in most branches of industry are now 45 hours weekly. It was formerly 48 hours per week, but this year it was cut by three hours weekly, without any reduction in pay.

Wages in the German Democratic Republic have been steadily rising for the past few years: in 1956 average wages rose by 3%, mainly as a result of big wage improvements for the lowest-paid categories of workers. Prices are steadily dropping: since 1950 there have been 16 big price reductions, each of which has brought a considerable increase in the standard of living.

The social insurance system of the German Democratic Republic ensures that all workers receive proper attention if sick, and pensions in their old age. All wage earners pay 10% of their earnings, up to a certain maximum figure, into the social insurance fund, and this provides all-in sickness insurance for themselves and members of their families, as well as pensions when retiring age is reached.

In case of sickness a factory worker or office worker receives 90% of his average pay for the first six weeks, and 50% of his average pay for a further 20 weeks.

Medical attention, hospital treatment, specialists' fees, and all expenses for medicine, etc., are met by the insurance fund.

The Place of Women in Society

The constitution of the German Democratic Republic lays down the principle of full equality between men and women. All former German laws which differentiated between the status of men and women have been cancelled.

In the factories, offices and in the agricultural cooperatives, the principle of equal pay for equal work is rigidly adhered to. Women are forbidden to do heavy physical labour, particularly in mining and the foundry industry, and various other jobs particularly dangerous to health, but with these exceptions, every job in the Democratic Republic is open to women.

One of the cabinet members is a woman, many mayors and members

PRODUCTION IN DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

Product	Unit	1936	1950	1955	1956
Soft coal	million tons	101	137	200	205
Iron ore	thousand tons	406	401	1664	1757
Potash	thousand tons	953	1336	1552	1556
Iron Pyrites	thousand tons	—	41	49	54
Pig iron	thousand tons	201	337	1516	1573
Sulfuric acid	thousand tons	301	245	483	499
Phosphorus fertiliser	thousand tons	32	24	84	111
Cement	thousand tons	1686	1412	2971	3269
Marine engines	thousand HP	—	99	430	506
Agricultural machines	million marks	98	86	368	382
Motorcycles	thousands	54	9	69	79
Bicycles	thousands	398	338	723	694
Sewing machines	thousands	—	79	214	207
Artifical silk	thousand tons	12	9	22	22
Synthetic textiles	thousand tons	17	78	96	98
Cotton textiles	thousand square metres	164	74	200	207

of parliament are women, and at the other end of the scale thousands of women are working as tractor drivers, engineers, and other jobs which in the past have been regarded as a male preserve.

Working mothers receive leave on full pay for five weeks before, and six weeks after giving birth to a child. They may not be dismissed from their jobs during the period of pregnancy. To help working mothers who have small children to be looked after, the number of creches, day nurseries and nursery schools is being constantly increased.

The Educational System

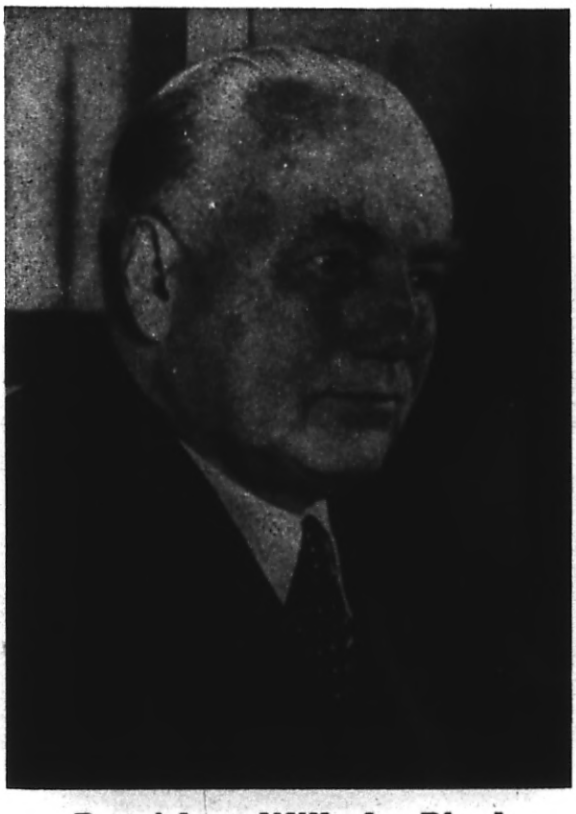
Every boy and girl in the German Democratic Republic must go to school between the ages of 6 and 14 years. Instruction and school books are provided free. In the first post-war years there was overcrowding in many schools because of war damage, but intensive building has now overcome this difficulty.

There has been a particular improvement in village schools: in olden days most villages schools had only one class room and one teacher. In 1945 there were over 4000 such schools. At the end of 1956 only 34 of them were left, and they were expected to vanish very soon.

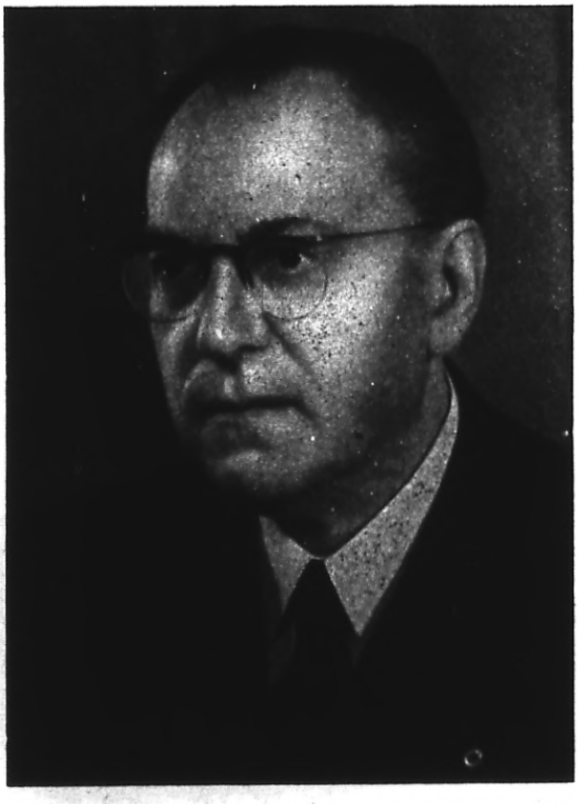
All talented children have a chance to go on to secondary school and university, and students receive generous grants which make it possible for the children of workers and peasants to get a higher education without financial difficulties. The languages taught at secondary schools include Russian, English, French, Latin and Greek, with Polish and Czech at some schools. Efforts are now being made to extend the teaching of English and French.

Religion in Democratic Germany

The subject of religious freedom is very fully dealt with in the Constitution of the Democratic Republic. Article 41 of the Constitution states: "Every citizen enjoys the right of full freedom of belief and conscience. The unhindered practice of religion is protected by the Republic". The Constitution also lays down that nobody shall be obliged to disclose his religious beliefs, and that civil rights and the right to serve in a public capacity are independent of religious belief. At the same time nobody shall be forced to participate in a church service or use a religious form of oath. The church is guaranteed the right to give religious instruction in school premises.



President Wilhelm Pieck



Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl

TWO BIOGRAPHIES

1. Wilhelm Pieck

President of the German Democratic Republic is Wilhelm Pieck, 81 year-old cabinet maker and life-long socialist.

He joined the Woodworker's Trade Union in 1894, and has remained a member until the present day. One year later, in 1895, he joined the Social Democratic Party. First political victimisation followed in 1896, when he was sacked for urging fellow-workers to demonstrate on May Day.

In 1905 Pieck was elected Social Democratic City Councillor in Bremen, and shortly afterwards was appointed deputy chief of the central Social Democratic Party school in Berlin.

During the First World War, Pieck joined the left-wing group led by Karl Liebknecht which opposed imperialist war: he was imprisoned, escaped to Holland, and there published an anti-militarist newspaper which he helped to smuggle into the German front lines.

Returning to Berlin in October 1918 he was one of the organisers of the revolution which threw the Kaiser from the throne and ended the war. In December 1918 he became a

member of the Central Committee of the newly-founded German Communist Party.

In January 1919 he was seized by reactionary officers together with revolutionary leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg: forged papers enabled him to escape, but the other two were murdered.

In October 1920 Wilhelm Pieck was elected to the Prussian Provincial Parliament as a Communist member. In the 1920's he was the main German organiser of the International Labour Defence, which fought for the release of left-wing political prisoners in Germany and frame-up victims in other countries, such as Tom Mooney and Sacco and Vanzetti in the United States.

After Hitler came to power, Wilhelm Pieck took over the underground leadership of the banned Communist Party, but he was too well known a political figure to run the underground in Germany, and was forced to emigrate, first to Paris and Prague, and later to Moscow.

During World War Two, Wilhelm Pieck broadcast to the German workers from Moscow Radio, and worked in the P.O.W camps in the Soviet Union as a leading member of the "National Committee of Free Germany".

In summer 1945 Pieck was able to return to liberated Berlin and take over the leadership of the Communist Party. He threw all his energy into the building of a new anti-fascist Germany, and was one of the main movers in the unification of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party in East Germany to form the Socialist Unity Party. He and Otto Grotewohl, former Social Democratic leader, became the joint chairmen of the new party.

When the German Democratic Republic was founded in October 1949, Wilhelm Pieck was elected the first president, and he has held this post ever since.

2. Otto Grotewohl

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic since its foundation in 1949, was born in Brunswick in 1894. He learned the trade of a printer, and joined the Social Democratic Party at the age of 17.

During the Weimar Republic (1919 to 1933) he served for a period as Social Democratic Minister of Education in the Brunswick Provincial Government, and served as a Social Democratic deputy in the Reichstag from 1925—1933.

Under Hitler, Otto Grotewohl, who worked as an insurance agent, was active in the socialist underground and was twice arrested.

After the defeat of the nazi regime in 1945, Grotewohl became first Chairman of the re-formed Social Democratic Party in the eastern zone of Germany. His experiences in the twelve bitter years of underground struggle against Hitler had taught him that the workers' parties must unite if they were to win, and he became a strong supporter of the unification of the two main workers' parties. In April 1946 the unification became a fact, and Otto Grotewohl became joint chairman, with Wilhelm Pieck, of the new Socialist Unity Party.

In October 1949, on the formation of the German Democratic Republic, President Wilhelm Pieck asked Grotewohl to form the first cabinet, and he has served as Prime Minister ever since.

Democratic Germany's Foreign Policy

The basic principles of the foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic are the principles of the Bandung Powers:

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Non-aggression.
3. Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit.
5. Peaceful co-existence.

These principles have not only been repeatedly stressed by the statesmen of the German Democratic Republic, but have found their expression in all international treaties, agreements and contacts of the Democratic Republic.

The German Democratic Republic has full diplomatic relations with the following states: Soviet Union, Chinese People's Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Mongolian People's Republic, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The German Democratic Republic has trade relations at a governmental level with the following states: India, Egypt, Finland, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Burma. In addition non-governmental trade relations are maintained with nearly all countries of the world.

The German Democratic Republic cooperates in the work of many United Nations agencies, such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Labour Office, UNESCO, World Health Organisation, etc.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly pledged its support to the peoples of Africa and Asia in their fight for liberty. In an official statement issued on April 10th 1957, the Government stated:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the liberation movement of the peoples of Africa and Asia, extends them its full sympathies, and pledges them its support. The German Democratic Republic represents those forces in Germany which wish to have nothing to do with the colonialist efforts of German imperialism.

"The policy of colonial expansion of the Government of the (West) German Federal Republic is aimed not only against the peoples of Africa and Asia, but also against the German people themselves. The Government of the German Democratic Republic is convinced that the governments and peoples of the countries of Africa and Asia will know how to distinguish between the measures and plans of the West German Government, and the wishes of the German people.

"The German Democratic Republic is ready to establish friendly relations with all national independent states and with all peoples struggling for their independence, and to give them every possible help, without political conditions, in the development of their economy on the basis of full equal rights."

"SCHOOL IS NICE"

By Mary Wolfard, East Berlin

When my little girl met me with an enthusiastic "Mummy, school is nice!" after her first morning at school, my thoughts went back to that day long ago when I first went to school and was slid onto a form between two larger girls and told to "Copy that picture". "That picture", which is still clear in my memory, was one of the Christian saints stretching out his hands in blessing above the head of some poor and miserable and sick person. And I felt *just* as miserable and forsaken with this impossible task before me.

Times have changed and the fact that my daughter's reaction was so different from my own was largely due to the careful preparations that went into making this year's 272,000 school beginners' first day a happy event long to be remembered.

Our first intimation that school was approaching was a request to attend a medical examination. Children found to be deficient in mind or body are then either sent for treatment or to special schools for the physically or mentally handicapped, or told to postpone school entry for a year. In our case, Sara was allotted a place in a school three minutes' walk from our home.

The second intimation was an announcement of a parents' meeting to take place a few days before the new term, which we were asked to attend. As we parents sat in the small desks shortly to be occupied by our offspring, the headmistress introduced us to Frau Siepert, the pleasant, young and smart teacher who would soon be in charge of our 38 children, and Herr Schramm, the Pioneer leader who is also a trained teacher. The headmistress then emphasised the need for good cooperation between home, school and Pioneer organisation and likened us to a machine which is dependent for smooth functioning upon the careful fitting together of its various parts.

She went on to the all-important first day at school which, she said, should be treated as something of a family party of which the child was the central point. The parents were of course invited to the first day of term and she suggested that the same happy and festive atmosphere should be maintained at home, with perhaps a special cake for the schodl beginner to mark the occasion. She added that we should always remember that it was not only important that children should learn, but that they should also be healthy and happy.

At this point I couldn't help asking my husband whether he'd had such VIP treatment when he started school. The answer was "No. I just started".

Herr Schramm then said a few words about the Pioneer organisation which seems to be something like an amalgamation of the cubs and brownies but with King and Country replaced by Cleanliness and Peace.

Frau Siepert as the form mistress spoke at length about all the things we parents of school beginners ought to know and do, about suitable clothing, school hours, absences, school meals, about how many pencils the children should have and so on. She asked parents not to give the children erasers as, apart from the inevitable holes in the exercise books, she preferred her pupils to put a neat line through anything they wanted to improve upon, so that they might see and appreciate their own progress.

Most interesting to me was her explanation of reading teaching methods and Frau Siepert said that by Christmas 75 per cent of the children would be able to read, and all of them would be able to by February. If our children were in the latter group, we shouldn't think that anything was wrong with them. They were the slow but sure ones.

She announced that on the first day at school each child would be given a new book, "Reading and Learning", and later an exercise book and an arithmetic text book, also new. These books are the child's property and there's no question of passing on tatty old books from one generation to the next.

When the children have, or are in contact with, infectious diseases but are not really ill, the school arranges that the lessons be slipped through the letter-box daily so that the child may to some extent keep up with his class-mates.

What really surprised me were the school hours. Having been brought up on the rather long British school hours, it was quite a shock to find that Sara would only attend school for 40 minutes a day for the first week and gradually work up to a total of 15½ hours a week for the first year, usually from 8 to 10.30 a.m. At 10.30 the children may have a bowl of soup, semolina, rice or something similar, at the heavily subsidised price of 15 pfennigs a time, and then may go home or to the after-school club which is open from 7.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

The third intimation of the approaching great day was a postcard addressed to Sara. It looked rather like a birthday card complete with old-world cottage, little birds and crinolined child and it said:

Dear Sara,

We are happy to invite you to the first day of term. All the teachers and the children in our school are expecting you and your dear parents on September 4th at 11.15 a.m. in the school play-ground.

With very best wishes,
Your form mistress.

All the family was so touched by this utterly unexpected friendliness, and on September 4th we set out in a happy frame of mind. Sara proudly wore her new satchel on her back and I, like so many other thousands of parents this day, bore an enormous brightly coloured cardboard cornet filled with fruit and sweets and nuts and other such things which I associated with Christmas stockings but which here go with this traditional "Schultuete", and which is all part of celebrating the first day at school.

Once in the playground, Sara was greeted by shouts of recognition from her kindergarten friends and I said "Hullo" to those parents whom I know from the kindergarten parents' association.

A reception was held in the school hall and after a short speech of welcome by the head mistress, last year's first class put on a show of songs and dances for this year's first class to show them what they would be able to do a year hence. The pretty little crêpe paper dresses took the children's minds to some extent off the impending step into the unknown.

When the time came for the children to go to their classes and their names were read out one by one, some answered with a loud

"here", some silently took their places in the line, and my own Sara departed with quiet tears running down her cheeks. While the children had their first experience of School — a cup of cocoa, cake and a bunch of flowers lay on each desk — we parents visited the after-school club.

This lies about ten minutes' walk from the school across the local park. I had expected something like a largish club room where the children of working mothers were kept out of harm's way till mother comes home and I had in fact decided not to send my own child, being prepared to give up work if necessary in her interests. But I soon changed my mind and joined the queue to enter her name.

The club consists of two large bungalows surrounded by playing fields and a park. It has a sandpit, a paddling pool, swings and a seasaw outside, and inside it has bright airy rooms where the children play and do their homework under the supervision of qualified staff and where they eat a good midday meal for 25 pfennigs or about one sixth of the average hourly wage.

There are of course wash basins with hooks for each child's towel and face cloth. There is also a bath and two showers. But best of all are the staff. They are so friendly, so keen to help. They had already made the children's acquaintance during a visit to the club and they work closely with the school to ensure that the teacher's methods are respected and in fact extended to the after-school club. You can imagine how delighted the parents were, especially those mothers who either must or want to work.

We returned to the school to collect our children. Sara's tears had disappeared. "School *is* nice" she said "and so's our teacher. You know, she read us a story."

CINEMA-GOING IN E. GERMANY

Half Films Come From West

(A London reader recently wrote to GERMAN REPORT asking what sort of films were shown in the cinemas of the German Democratic Republic. "I read somewhere that the cinemas in East Germany show nothing except Russian propaganda films: if so, it must be very boring. Please tell me what the real situation is" he wrote. Here is our reply.)

This is a typical bit of misrepresentation; a study of the origin of the films generally released in the German Democratic Republic this year, or about to be released in the next few weeks, shows that just 12 of a total of nearly 80 films were made in the Soviet Union. It is difficult to define what constitutes a "propaganda film", but the Soviet films which have been generally shown here this year include two nature films, one about the underwater world and one about wolves, a number of comedies, which it would be very difficult for anyone to describe as "propaganda", and the excellent film about the civil war, "The Forty-First" which received a prize at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

If there were so relatively few Soviet films, where did all the other pictures come from? The British industry was represented by three films: "The Long Arm", with Jack Hawkins, John Stratton and Dorothy Alison; "Forbidden Cargo" with Nigel Patrick and Jack Warner; and "The Million Pound Note" with Gregory Peck.

Britain, however, is far down on the list of "western" countries whose films are shown throughout the Democratic Republic; France, with ten films this year, and Italy with nine films easily head the list. It should be stressed that all the films mentioned here are shown throughout the Republic on the general circuits, and not merely in a few speciality cinemas, as mainly happens to French and Italian films in Britain.

Outstanding amongst the French films was "The Race for Life" ("Si tous les gars du monde"), which has just won a main prize at the Edinburgh Festival; "Le monde du silence", the beautiful underwater film; "Gas-Oil" with Jean Gabin, and "La sorcière" with Marina Vlady.

The Italian films, many of which have not been generally shown in Britain to date, included "Racconti Romani" with Silvana Pampanini; "Pane, amore e ..." with Sophia Loren and Vittorio de Sica; and "Il Tetto", a prize winner at the Cannes Festival, directed by Vittorio de Sica.

Other "western" films came from Argentina ("Horizontes de Piedra"); Mexico ("Maclovia"); Finland ("I am the Judge"); and Austria ("Don Giovanni").

Co-production films from "Western" countries included the powerful French-Italian film "Wages of Fear", and there were two notable films co-produced by French film companies and DEFA, the nationally owned film company of the German Democratic Republic. They were "Till Ulenspiegel", starring Gerard Philipe, and the "Witches of Salem", based on the play "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller.

Films from eastern Europe included several exciting resistance films from Yugoslavia, four rather average pictures from Czechoslovakia, two films from Bulgaria, and one film each from Hungary, Rumania and Poland. All foreign films are "dubbed" in German before being shown in the German Democratic Republic.

The toll of "western" films shown in East Germany is further increased by the number of West German films shown here. Altogether nine of them have been screened so far this year, mainly non-committal comedies.

But what about American films? There are plenty of American films which the exhibitors in the Democratic Republic would like to show, but so far currency difficulties and various American practices such as an insistence on block bookings have made this very difficult. These difficulties are not insuperable, however, and the Hollywood film "Marty" is now being "dubbed" and will be screened very shortly.

There remain the films made in the German Democratic Republic by DEFA, the nationally owned film company. A total of eleven new DEFA films have been released this year so far, and more than twenty more films are now on the studio floor or in the cutting rooms: this is claimed to be more than in any other film studio anywhere in the world.

The DEFA films shown include "Betrayed Until Judgment Day", which received very favourable notices in British papers when shown at the Edinburgh Festival; "Where You Go", film about the International Brigade in Spain; an anti-nazi film "Lissy", and the interesting film about adolescents entitled "Berlin, Schoenhauser Corner".

Summing up: more than half of all the films shown this year in East German cinemas came from "western" countries. Does this look like a monopoly of "Russian propaganda films"?

TEEN-AGERS (EASTERN VERSION)

New Film from Democratic Germany Views Adolescent Problems

Teen-age rowdies and unsettled adolescents are not only a problem in capitalist countries: they can cause a lot of worry in a country building socialism too.

East Germany's nationalised film company DEFA has just made a film about the problem, entitled "Berlin, Schoenhauser Corner", which does not come up with any cut and dried solution, but does a very good job of posing the question in a sensible way.

The truth to life of the film is shown by the fact that it has not only had a very good press, but that cinemas showing the film have had jammed audiences of the "rock'n roll set", who see themselves depicted, in recognisable form, for the first time in an East German film.

Our picture from the film shows the gang, assembled under the arches of the elevated railway in East Berlin's Schoenhauser Allee, from which the film takes its name: and a large part of the picture is devoted to showing just why they are out there on the street, making a nuisance of themselves. One of them stays away from home because his father is a drunk and beats him; the girl star of the picture has to leave her one-room flat in the evening because her widowed mother entertains her friend there; the others too come from broken or unhappy homes.

What is the solution? This film, and this is a great advance over some previous East German films which have presented an idealised "building of socialism" as the twopence coloured easy answer to all the problems, does not really set out to give the answer. It puts the question and leaves the audience to go away and think it out for itself.

The picture naturally makes great play with the peculiar situation of Berlin as a divided city, with all the contradictions and temptations which this supplies. West Berlin is always just around the corner, with its bright lights and its gangster films; and the duplicate currencies and multitude of opportunities for smuggling and petty crime which this entails give the corner boys every opportunity to slide down from normal adolescent rowdiness into the real dangers of crime.

When the two main characters in the film think that they have killed a third boy in a fight, for instance, they believe they have found an easy way out; they skip off to West Berlin and land in a sordid refugee camp.

East Berlin's Teddy Boys — A Scene from the New Film

Lead in the film is brilliantly played by Ekkehard Schall, a member of Bertolt Brecht's theatre "Berliner Ensemble"; the film was written by Wolfgang Kohlhaas and directed by Gerhard Klein, young artists who had earlier produced two first-class studies of the divided city of Berlin. GERMAN REPORT predicts we shall be hearing more of them.

Air-Freight, Planetariums, Translations

The newly opened East German Lufthansa air freight bureau in Berlin accepts almost all types of freight for shipment to many countries in IL 14 and AN 2 type planes. Small consignments will be shipped in Aero 45 air taxis.

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The German Democratic Republic sold nearly twice as many optical and fine mechanical instruments, glass, textiles and chemical products as expected at the Vienna International Autumn Fair in September.

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The thirty-fourth planetarium produced in the Zeiss works in Jena, East Germany, has been bought by India and will be set up in Calcutta in an air-conditioned domed building specially designed for it by Indian architects.

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Two thousand five hundred freshmen began their studies at the Dresden Institute of Technology this autumn, bringing the total of students there up to 15,430.

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Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, South American and Near East students studying at East German universities were amongst the 5,000 university and high school students who spent part of their vacation doing volunteer shifts in East German mines.

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1,000 trade union delegates from 108 countries will meet in Leipzig early in October for the Fourth World Trade Union Congress.

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German translations of books by English authors which are now available in East German bookshops include "Amelia" by Henry Fielding, "The Rose and the Ring" by W. M. Thackeray, "Little Dorrit" by Charles Dickens, "Kidnapped" and "Catriona" by R. L. Stevenson, "Nostromo" by Joseph Conrad and "The Forsyte Saga" by John Galsworthy.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The Oder—Neisse frontier between Poland and Germany is back in the news again, as we report on the front page of this issue. What is this frontier, and what is all the row about?

In the past few hundred years the border between Germany and Poland has wandered backwards and forwards, with changes of hundreds of miles in each direction. The frequent change in frontiers, German imperialist policy of the "Germanisation" of Poles in the territory they occupied, and the mixed nature of the population, in which towns were often mainly German in character, while the surrounding countryside was entirely Polish, made it impossible to draw any clear frontier on ethnological principles, even if there had been anyone who wished to do so.

In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, and pushed the German frontiers far to the east once again. In the subsequent years of occupation, millions of Poles were uprooted to make room for German settlers, and a total of six million Poles were not only thrown from their homes, but were physically exterminated.

At the end of the war, in 1945, all the great powers were agreed that it was necessary to fix a new Polish-German frontier, a frontier which would be both easily defensible against any renewed German attack, and one which would provide Poland with a viable economy. In order to prevent a renewal of "fifth column" activities, to which German minorities in other countries have always been so prone, the great powers unanimously decided that the German populations left to the east of the borderline, fixed on the Oder and Neisse rivers, should be removed to within the frontiers of Germany proper.

All this was agreed to by the Governments of Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union at the Potsdam Conference. It may be as well to quote the relevant paragraphs from the Potsdam Agreement, signed on August 2nd 1945. The agreement states:

"In conformity with the agreement on Poland reached at the Crimea Conference, the three heads of Government have sought the opinion of the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity in regard to the accession of territory in the north and west which Poland should receive . . . The three heads of Government agree that, pending the final determination of Poland's western frontier, the former German territories east of a line running from the Baltic Sea immediately west of Swinemunde, and thence along the Oder River to the confluence of the western Neisse River and along the western Neisse to the Czechoslovak frontier . . . shall be under the administration of the Polish state . . ."

This paragraph of the agreement was supplemented by a paragraph dealing with the transfer of German population, which stated:

"The three Governments, having considered the question in all its aspects, recognise the fact that the transfer to Germany of German populations, or elements thereof, remaining in Poland . . . will have to be undertaken."

And the transfer of the German population was undertaken, and it is important to note that it was undertaken with the aid of the British and American military authorities in Germany, who received the resettlers and in many cases provided the transport.

The opponents of the Oder—Neisse frontier, who are particularly vociferous amongst the unreconstructed militarist elements in West Germany cling desperately to a clause of the Potsdam Agreement which states the "final delimitation of the western frontier of Poland should await the peace settlement"; but at the time this clause was written, no sensible person assumed it to mean anything more than that the actual course of the frontier on the ground should be finally delimited: that is to say that minor revision might be made to avoid cutting a village in two, or allotting the ownership of bridges over the Oder, etc. The real finalisation of the frontier was accomplished by the expulsion of the Germans living to the east of the Oder—Neisse, and their replacement by more than five million Poles who now live and work there. If the western powers had for one minute considered reversing their frontier decision, then they should surely never have cooperated in the resettlement of the German expellees.

Now that the West German authorities are banging the big drum and proclaiming that "territory that was once German must always remain German", it is interesting to look back and see what leading allied statesmen in the west said about the problem in 1945.

Let us hear, for instance from President Harry Truman of the United States. In a coast-to-coast broadcast on August 9th, for instance, he stated:

"The new area in the West was formerly populated by Germans, but most of them have already left in the face of the invading Soviet Army. We were informed that there are only about 1,500,000 left. The territory that the Poles are to administer will enable Poland better to support its population. It will provide a short and more easily defensible frontier between Poland and Germany. Settled by Poles, it will provide a more homogeneous nation. The action taken at Berlin will help carry out the basic policy of the United Nations towards Poland — to create a strong, independent and prosperous nation with a Government to be selected by the people themselves."

And here is Mr Ernie Bevin, then British Foreign Secretary, speaking in the House of Commons on August 20th 1945:

"There was no escaping the course adopted so that the economy of the region might be restored and enabled to make its full contribution as soon as possible to provisioning a devastated Europe."

Anthony Eden, Mr Bevin's predecessor at the Foreign Office, was more critical of the situation in a speech in the same debate. He stated:

"I cannot see how the Polish population can settle in these vast areas of Germany, man its industry, and look after its agricultural land to produce food for other parts of Europe."

I have not commented on the other statements, but I should like to comment very shortly on what Mr Eden said. He did not see how the Polish population could do it: but the Polish population did do it. Today the land is being farmed and the industry is being run, and the only thing that could drive out the more than five million Poles who now live and work there would be another world war. That is just what the people in West Germany who clamour for a revision of the Oder—Neisse frontier want, and they do not deserve, and should not get, the support of a single person anywhere else in the world.

Just incidentally, and as a footnote, I should remark that the Oder—Neisse frontier was finally delimited by an agreement between the German Democratic Republic, which occupies the whole western side of the frontier, and the Polish People's Republic, as far back as 1950, so that even the claim that the frontier has not been finally delimited falls to the ground.

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